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Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Roll of Thunder,
Hear My Cry

Mildred D. Taylor

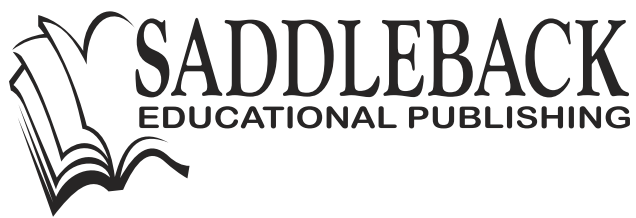
ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus **ON READING**

*Roll of
Thunder
Hear My Cry*

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Introduction/Classroom Management

WELCOME TO *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading literature study guides are designed to help all students comprehend and analyze their reading. Many teachers have grappled with the question of how to make quality literature accessible to all students. Students who are already avid readers of quality literature are motivated to read and are familiar with prereading and reading strategies. However, struggling readers frequently lack basic reading skills and are not equipped with the prior knowledge and reading strategies to thoroughly engage in the classroom literature experience.

Focus on Reading is designed to make teachers' and students' lives easier! How? By providing materials that allow all students to take part in reading quality literature. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains activities that focus on vocabulary and comprehension skills that students need to get the most from their reading. In addition, each section within the guide contains a before-reading **Focus Your Reading** page containing tools to ensure success: **Vocabulary Words to Know**, **Things to Know**, and **Questions to Think About**. These study aids will help students who may not have the prior knowledge they need to truly comprehend the reading.

USING *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading is designed to make it easy for you to meet the individual needs of students who require additional reading skills support. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains teacher and student support materials, reproducible student activity sheets, an end-of-book test, and an answer key.

- **Focus on the Book**, a convenient reference page for the teacher, provides a brief overview of the entire book including a synopsis, information about the setting, author data, and historical background.
- **Focus Your Knowledge**, a reference page for students, is a whole-book, prereading activity designed to activate prior knowledge and immerse students in the topic.

The study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable sections to make it easy to plan classroom time. Five activities are devoted to each section of the novel.

Before Reading

- **Focus Your Reading** consists of 3 prereading sections:

Vocabulary Words to Know lists and defines 10 vocabulary words students will encounter in their reading. Students will not have to interrupt their reading to look up, ask for, or spend a lot of time figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words. These words are later studied in-depth within the lesson.

Things to Know identifies terms or concepts that are integral to the reading but that may not be familiar to today's students. This section is intended to "level the playing field" for those students who may not have much prior knowledge about the time period, culture, or theme of the book. It also gets students involved with the book, increasing interest before they begin reading.

Questions to Think About helps students focus on the main ideas and important details they should be looking for as they read. This activity helps give students a *purpose* for reading. The goal of these guiding questions is to build knowledge, confidence, and comfort with the topics in the reading.

During Reading

- **Build Your Vocabulary** presents the 10 unit focus words in the exact context of the book. Students are then asked to write their own definitions and sentences for the words.
- **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** offers 10 multiple-choice, literal comprehension questions for each section.
- **Check Your Understanding: Short Answer** contains 10 short-answer questions based on the reading.

After Reading

- **Deepen Your Understanding** is a writing activity that extends appreciation and analysis of the book. This activity focuses on critical-thinking skills and literary analysis.
- **End-of-Book Test** contains 20 multiple-choice items covering the book. These items ask questions that require students to synthesize the information in the book and make inferences in their answers.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Focus on Reading is very flexible. It can be used by the whole class, by small groups, or by individuals. Each study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable units of study.

This literature comprehension program is simple to use. Just photocopy the lessons and distribute them at the appropriate time as students read the novel.

You may want to reproduce and discuss the **Focus Your Knowledge** page before distributing the paperbacks. This page develops and activates prior knowledge to ensure that students have a grounding in the book before beginning reading. After reading this whole-book prereading page, students are ready to dive into the book.

The **Focus Your Reading** prereading activities are the keystone of this program. They prepare students for what they are going to read, providing focus for the complex task of reading. These pages should be distributed before students actually begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. There are no questions to be answered on these pages; these are for reference and support during reading. Students may choose to take notes on these pages as they read. This will also give students a study tool for review before the **End-of-Book Test**.

The **Focus Your Reading** pages also provide an excellent bridge to home. Parents, mentors, tutors, or

other involved adults can review vocabulary words with students, offer their own insights about the historical and cultural background outlined, and become familiar with the ideas students will be reading about. This can help families talk to students in a meaningful way about their reading, and it gives the adults something concrete to ask about to be sure that students are reading and understanding.

The **Build Your Vocabulary** and **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** and **Short Answer** activities should be distributed when students begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. These literature guide pages are intended to help students comprehend and retain what they read; they should be available for students to refer to at any time during the reading.

Deepen Your Understanding is an optional extension activity that goes beyond literal questions about the book, asking students for their own ideas and opinions—and the reasons behind them. These postreading activities generally focus on literary analysis.

As reflected in its title, the **End-of-Book Test** is a postreading comprehension test to be completed after the entire novel has been read.

For your convenience, a clear **Answer Key** simplifies the scoring process.

Focus on the Book

Synopsis

Cassie Logan is a fourth-grade student living in Mississippi in 1933. She and her family are black, which causes the major conflict in the novel. Because of the time period and location of the story, Cassie and her three brothers face the segregation and racial discrimination that was common in the South after the Civil War and through much of the twentieth century.

The Logan family, unlike many of the black families near them, own their own land. This gives them some security, but it also leads some people to begrudge them that security. The story begins with Cassie and her brothers learning that “night men” have burned three black men. As the story progresses, Cassie’s mother attempts to boycott a local store whose white owners, the Wallaces, are purported to be responsible for the heinous crime. Cassie’s mother is fired from her job as a teacher, and Cassie’s father is eventually unable to return to his job on the railroad because of injuries sustained when night men attack him. At that point, the mortgage on their land is called in; the white men in the area hope that the Logans will be forced to give up their land. Meanwhile, T.J. Avery, a sometime friend of the Logan children, has begun associating with the Wallaces. His “friendship” with the Wallaces turns out to be a false one, and he and the Logans become embroiled in a bitter and dangerous situation.

About the Author

Mildred D. Taylor was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1943 and spent most of her childhood in Toledo, Ohio. She graduated from the University of Toledo and then spent two years teaching English and history in Africa with the Peace Corps. She eventually earned her master’s degree from the School of Journalism at the University of Colorado and helped to establish a Black Studies program there.

Taylor’s inspiration for Cassie Logan came from an innocent and proud little girl who was untouched by discrimination. Most of Taylor’s books, which include *Song of the Trees* (1975), *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976), *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* (1981), *Gold Cadillac* (1987), *The Road to Memphis* (1990), and *The Well* (1995) are about the Logan family and have been highly regarded.

Historical Background

The setting of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is southern Mississippi in 1933. The location and time period of the story have a major effect on the plot because the Logan family is black, and Mississippi was racially divided during that time.

The history of the Civil Rights movement began with President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation in 1862. This proclamation freed all slaves as of January 1, 1863. As the Civil War drew to a close, President Lincoln also declared the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, which was designed to help ensure rights for blacks and the restructuring of the Southern states. Despite the official abolition of slavery in Mississippi in 1865, the new government in the state created what were called the Black Codes, which imposed most of the same restrictions on blacks that they had suffered as slaves.

Besides being denied the rights that white people were entitled to, ex-slaves also lacked financial independence. Because the former slaves did not have their own money, most of them were forced to become sharecroppers or tenant farmers. Sharecroppers were provided with equipment and advanced credit by landowners, and they worked for a percentage of the crop. Tenant farmers sold the crops that they raised and paid a share of the profit as rent. In neither of these arrangements did the black farmers own their own land. The people who worked under these systems rarely made enough money to become financially independent.

Discrimination and violence also weighed heavily on African Americans even well after the close of the Civil War. During Reconstruction, several violent groups, including the Ku Klux Klan and the Knights of the White Camellia, were established. These groups used violence to prevent blacks from voting and to generally maintain white dominance over blacks. Between 1900 and 1920 alone, more than a thousand black people were lynched by such groups.

Segregation was also maintained throughout the Southern states for decades after the Civil War. Schools in Mississippi were segregated by law, and it was not until 1962 that the first college in Mississippi was forced to admit a black student. Public schools below the college level were not desegregated until 1964.

Focus Your Knowledge

- Look up the term *segregation* if you do not know what it means. Think about whether or not segregation plays a role in life today. Could schools that were segregated by color (or any other quality) ever have been equal?
- Recall what you know about the Ku Klux Klan. What emotions do you think motivate followers of such terrorist groups? What emotions do you think people targeted by such groups feel?
- Think about what you know about the Civil War and the time immediately thereafter. What happened in the South? in the North? Which people gained power in each area of the country? Did the war achieve freedom and equality for all people?
- The Great Depression of the 1930s was a long period of general economic hardship in the country. Banks failed, people lost all their savings, and many people lost their jobs. How do you think this situation would have affected farmers who did not own their land? How would it have affected those who did own their land and farmed it for a living?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

meticulously—very carefully

pensively—thoughtfully, often with some sadness

undaunted—not held back by fear

emblazoned—displayed brilliantly

gleaned—collected (often refers to collecting the last bits of grain)

reverberated—echoed

ebbed—weakened or lessened

temerity—foolish or rash boldness; recklessness

maverick—a person who takes an independent stand

formidable—causing fear or dread

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

In the past in many farming communities, students began the school year in October, later than today, so that they could help harvest crops.

Sharecroppers are people who worked on farms or plantations for a percentage of the money gained by selling the crops.

A **plantation** is an estate owned by a person or family who has workers who live on the land and help with the work.

Reconstruction refers to the process of reorganizing the Southern states after the Civil War.

A **Yankee** is a person from a Northern state.

The **Confederacy** refers to the group of Southern states that tried to secede, or pull out of, the United States in 1860 and 1861. Those states included Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Memphis is a major city in western Tennessee.

Jackson is the capital of Mississippi.

To **gin** cotton is to remove seeds from it.

Focus Your Reading (continued)

A **bale** is a large bundle of goods, such as cotton or hay, that is compressed, bound, and sometimes wrapped.

“**The war**” in this book refers to World War I.

Nigger is a derogatory term for a black person. It is considered to be inappropriate today because of the history of racial hatred and bigotry that the word implies.

Lynching refers to the act of a mob of people murdering a person who has not been given a trial.

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why is owning land so important to the Logan family?
2. The Berrys’ burnin’ is mentioned several times in this section of the book. How can you tell that the Logan children are nervous about this?
3. What does the condition of the schoolbooks show about the attitude toward the Great Faith Elementary and Secondary School in the county?
4. Why do you think Mary Logan glues the books she has for her class?
5. Why do you think that Papa has brought Mr. Morrison to stay with the Logan family?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “Always **meticulously** neat, six-year-old Little Man never allowed dirt or tears or stains to mar anything he owned.”
meticulously: _____
2. “Christopher-John’s whistling increased to a raucous, nervous shrill, and grudgingly I let the matter drop and trudged along in moody silence, my brothers growing as **pensively** quiet as I.”
pensively: _____
3. “‘Ain’t no need gettin’ mad,’ T.J. replied **undaunted**. ‘Jus’ an idea.’”
undaunted: _____
4. “In the very center of the expansive front lawn, waving red, white, and blue with the emblem of the Confederacy **emblazoned** in its upper left-hand corner, was the Mississippi flag.”
emblazoned: _____
5. “But even so, after today a number of the older students would not be seen again for a month or two, not until the last puff of cotton had been **gleaned** from the fields, and eventually most would drop out of school altogether.”
gleaned: _____
6. “As the last gong of the bell **reverberated** across the compound, I swooped up my pencils and notebook and ran inside.”
reverberated: _____
7. “My anticipation at having my own book **ebbed** to a sinking disappointment.”
ebbed: _____
8. “‘Dirty!’ Miss Crocker echoed, appalled by such **temerity**.”
temerity: _____
9. “Although Mama had been a teacher at Great Faith for fourteen years, ever since she had graduated from the Crandon Teacher Training School at nineteen, she was still considered by many of the other teachers as a disrupting **maverick**.”
maverick: _____
10. “But now, gazing upward at the most **formidable**-looking being we had ever encountered, we huddled closer to Papa.”
formidable: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. On the way to school, why does Little Man walk so slowly?
 - a. He doesn't want to go to school.
 - b. He doesn't want to get dirty.
 - c. He is mad at Cassie.
2. Where is Papa working?
 - a. Mississippi
 - b. Texas
 - c. Louisiana
3. Why is Big Ma often called to other people's houses at night?
 - a. She is good at medicines.
 - b. She likes to visit her friends.
 - c. She can't sleep.
4. What has Cassie told her mother about T.J.?
 - a. that he is mean to the other children
 - b. that she doesn't like him
 - c. that he went to the Wallace store dancing room
5. How long does it take the Logan children to walk to school?
 - a. five minutes
 - b. half an hour
 - c. one hour
6. What new supplies will the students of the Great Faith School have this year?
 - a. books
 - b. desks
 - c. art supplies
7. What causes Little Man to throw his book on the floor and stomp on it?
 - a. the color
 - b. the title
 - c. the chart on the inside cover
8. What does Mama do to the seventh-grade books?
 - a. She throws them away.
 - b. She decides that she won't give them to the children.
 - c. She glues paper over the chart on the inside cover.
9. Why can't Papa stay home any longer than Sunday evening?
 - a. He doesn't want to.
 - b. He might lose his job.
 - c. Mr. Morrison says he should leave then.
10. Where does Papa warn the children they are not to go?
 - a. to school
 - b. to play with T.J.
 - c. to the Wallace store

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why does Papa go to work on the railroad?
2. What does T.J. tell the Logan children about the Berrys?
3. Why doesn't the bus stop to pick up the Logans?
4. Why is Miss Crocker teaching the fourth-grade students and the first-grade students for the first few days of school?
5. What is wrong with the books that the Great Faith School has for the students?
6. Why does Miss Crocker think that Little Man can't read the inside cover of the book?
7. How does Miss Crocker punish Little Man and Cassie?
8. Why doesn't Cassie talk to Mama after Miss Crocker leaves Mama's room?
9. Why does Mr. Morrison get fired from the railroad?
10. What does the sheriff do when Henrietta Toggins reports what she saw happen to the Berrys?

Deepen Your Understanding

The events that together make up a story are the *plot* of the story. One important part of any plot is conflict, or a problem that the characters face.

The first two chapters of the novel show that Cassie and her family live in an area where there is much friction between the white people and the black people. Find at least two specific examples of this conflict, and explain why you think this conflict exists.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

resiliency—the ability to recover strength, spirits, or good humor quickly

embittered—made resentful or sad; aggravated

coddling—treating someone tenderly, such as an infant or an invalid. (The term can be used negatively when it is applied to someone who should not be treated in this way, such as a healthy adult.)

flippantly—disrespectfully

rash—too hasty or incautious in acting or speaking

oblivious—forgetful or unmindful

haggard—having a worn look, as from sleeplessness, grief, or illness

riveted—fixed or held firmly

nauseous—feeling a sickness of the stomach; feeling disgusted

fathom—to get to the bottom of; to understand thoroughly

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Calfskin refers to soft, flexible leather made from the hide of a calf.

A **reader** is a schoolbook containing stories, poems, and other reading selections. It is used by students learning to read.

“**Devilish night men**” refers to members of the Ku Klux Klan, a secret society of white men that was founded in the Southern states after the Civil War to keep and maintain white power.

Whooping cough is a disease affecting children. Symptoms include repeated attacks of coughing that end in a forced intake of breath, or whoop.

“**Tarred and feathered**” describes someone who has been coated with tar then feathers as a punishment.

Macon is a city in central Georgia.

Vicksburg is a city on the Mississippi River west of Jackson.

Tenant farming is farming land owned by another person and paying rent in cash or crops.

Focus Your Reading (continued)

Sowing crops means scattering or planting seeds for growing.

Reaping crops means gathering a harvest by cutting.

A **mercantile** is a store.

“**Backing a signature**” means to provide security for a loan.

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How do the Logan children show their frustration with how they are treated by the bus driver, Mr. Grimes?
2. Why are the “night men” riding on this particular night?
3. What is the cause of Cassie’s moping at the beginning of Chapter 4?
4. Which character is more concerned with right and wrong, Stacey Logan or T.J. Avery? Why?
5. What does Mama Logan want her children to learn when she takes them to see Mr. and Mrs. Berry?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “At first the rain had merely splotted the dust, which seemed to be rejoicing in its own **resiliency** and laughing at the heavy drops thudding against it; but eventually the dust was forced to surrender to the mastery of the rain. . .”
resiliency: _____
2. “. . . each day when he found his clean clothes splashed red by the school bus, he became more and more **embittered** until finally one day he stomped angrily into the kitchen and exploded, ‘They done it again, Big Ma! Just look at my clothes!’”
embittered: _____
3. “Big Ma was not one for **coddling** any of us, but now she turned from the stove and, wiping her hands on her long white apron, sat down on the bench and put her arm around Little Man.”
coddling: _____
4. “‘Jus’ ole Harlan,’ said T.J. **flippantly** as the expensive car rounded a curve and disappeared. . .”
flippantly: _____
5. “Again, Christopher-John and I looked questioningly at each other, wondering how Stacey could make such a **rash** promise.”
rash: _____
6. “And for once in his life, Little Man was happily **oblivious** to the mud spattering upon him.”
oblivious: _____
7. “He collapsed in silence by the door, breathing hard, and although I could not see him, I knew that his face was drawn and that his eyes had taken on a **haggard** look.”
haggard: _____
8. “Suddenly, all eyes turned from the fire and **riveted** themselves upon him.”
riveted: _____
9. “Once the truth had been disclosed, I waited with dry throat and **nauseous** stomach for Mr. Morrison to say something.”
nauseous: _____
10. “How we had managed to escape a whipping we couldn’t **fathom** until Saturday, when Mama woke us before dawn and piled us into the wagon.”
fathom: _____

II. CHAPTERS 3–4

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why does the Jefferson Davis bus driver always splash the children?
 - a. He is not a good driver.
 - b. It is amusing to the children on the bus.
 - c. He doesn't see them.
2. How do the children land in the gully on the way to school?
 - a. The bus runs them off the road and forces them to try to jump over it.
 - b. They try to see who can jump it.
 - c. Jeremy Simms tells them to jump in; they do because they are afraid of him.
3. What do the Logan children do at lunchtime on the day they have all fallen in the gully?
 - a. They tell Mama what has happened.
 - b. They eat lunch with T.J.
 - c. They take shovels and dig a hole across the road.
4. What happens to the Jefferson Davis bus on its way home from school?
 - a. It gets stuck in the ditch and gets a broken axle.
 - b. It goes another way home from school.
 - c. It splashes the Logan children again.
5. What happens to Cassie when the caravan of night men pulls up by the Logan house?
 - a. She sleeps through the entire thing.
 - b. She falls off the porch.
 - c. She warns Mama that the men are coming.
6. Big Mama is worried because Cassie isn't eating, sleeping, or playing. What does Mama suggest might be the problem?
 - a. Cassie's brothers were mean to her.
 - b. Cassie saw the night men pull up by the house.
 - c. Cassie wants Papa to come home for Christmas.
7. Why does Mama whip Stacey?
 - a. Mama sees him with T.J.'s cheat notes.
 - b. Mama knows he dug the ditch.
 - c. Mama knows he fought with T.J.
8. Where does Stacey go after school to find T.J.?
 - a. T.J.'s house
 - b. the Wallace store
 - c. the school playground
9. Who breaks up the fight between Stacey and T.J.?
 - a. Christopher-John
 - b. Jeremy Simms and his brothers
 - c. Mr. Morrison
10. Who does Mama say burned Mr. Berry and his nephews?
 - a. the Simmses
 - b. the Wallaces
 - c. the Averys

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What reason does Jeremy Simms give for walking to school with the Logan children?
2. What are the Logan children doing when the Jefferson Davis bus hits the ditch they have made?
3. Why do the children keep laughing when they are supposed to be doing their homework?
4. What does Big Ma get from under the bed?
5. How many cars are part of the caravan that approaches the Logan house?
6. How does Stacey get blamed for cheating?
7. Why does Mr. Morrison say that he's not going to tell Mama that the children were at the Wallace store?
8. How did Mr. Hollenbeck originally buy land from the Grangers?
9. Who did Paul Edward Logan buy the second two hundred acres of land from?
10. Why, according to Mr. Turner, would it be hard to stop shopping at the Wallaces' store?

II. CHAPTERS 3–4

AFTER READING

Deepen Your Understanding

Mood refers to the climate of feeling, or atmosphere, created by the author. In Chapter 3, there is an abrupt change in mood partway through the chapter. Explain the mood of the chapter at the beginning and how it changes as the chapter continues. What event causes the mood of the chapter to change? Which of these two moods is more prominent in Chapter 4?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

prevailed—gained advantage or mastery;
triumphed

warily—cautiously

bunions—swellings at the first joint of the
big toes

sleek—smooth and shiny; well-kept;
polished

malevolently—wishing evil or harm to
others

sullenly—showing resentment and ill
humor; gloomily; sadly

audible—loud enough to be heard

nattily—trimly or smartly in appearance

triumphantly—successfully; happily

languidly—sluggishly; indifferently; slowly

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **cockatoo** is a type of parrot with mainly white feathers that may be tinged with yellow or pink.

An **attorney** is a lawyer.

A **pot-bellied stove** is a stove with rounded, bulging sides.

“**Their German war**” refers to World War I.

A **red-neck** is a slang word for a poor, white, rural Southerner, often thought to be ignorant, prejudiced, and violent.

Rebel soldiers are soldiers who fought for the South (the Confederacy) during the Civil War.

The **Yankee** Army is the army that fought for the North (the Union) during the Civil War.

Model-T’s were Ford automobiles—the first cars that were mass-produced.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do you think Big Ma needs to see Mr. Jamison, the lawyer, in Strawberry?
2. Why does Mr. Barnett help everyone else before helping T.J. with his order?
3. How does the power of the white people, including Mr. Simms, become evident after Cassie bumps into Lillian Jean?
4. How does Mama explain to Cassie why Big Ma forced her to apologize to Lillian Jean?
5. Why do the Wallaces touch their hats when Uncle Hammer drives his car over the bridge?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “When hers had **prevailed** and Jack had settled into a moderate trot, she replied moodily, ‘Mr. Avery come by after y’all was asleep last night wanting T.J. to go to Strawberry to do some shopping for a few things he couldn’t get at the Wallace store.’”
prevailed: _____
2. “But by dawn, when the December sun was creeping **warily** upward shooting pale streams of buff-colored light through the forest, he was fully awake and chattering like a cockatoo.”
warily: _____
3. “‘Shoot,’ I mumbled, taking one of the buckets from Stacey, ‘by the time a body walk way back here, they’ll have **bunions** on their soles and corns on their toes.’”
bunions: _____
4. “‘Protection of what?’ I asked, thinking of Papa’s sturdy shotgun that hung over his and Mama’s bed, and the **sleek** Winchester rifle which Big Ma kept locked in the trunk beneath our own bed.”
sleek: _____
5. “His dark eyes flashed **malevolently** as he pushed me in front of him through the crowd.”
malevolently: _____
6. “He crossed the street **sullenly** then, his hands jammed in his pockets.”
sullenly: _____
7. “He sulked for a while with a few **audible** grumbles which no one paid any attention to, but finally he fell asleep and did not awaken until we had driven up the Granger road and stopped in front of the Avery house.”
audible: _____
8. “Instead of Mr. Granger, a tall, handsome man, **nattily** dressed in a gray pin-striped suit and vest, stood by the fire with his arm around Big Ma.”
nattily: _____
9. “I glanced **triumphantly** at Big Ma, but she wasn’t looking at me.”
triumphantly: _____
10. “Uncle Hammer stopped the car at the intersection and, leaning his right arm heavily over the steering wheel, motioned **languidly** at the Wallace store.”
languidly: _____

III. CHAPTERS 5–6

DURING READING

*Check Your Understanding**Multiple Choice*

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why is the trip to Strawberry especially exciting to Cassie?
 - a. She has never been allowed to go before.
 - b. She is looking forward to spending time with T.J.
 - c. She wants to get away from Mama for the day.
2. Why doesn't Big Ma move the wagon closer to the entrance?
 - a. Jack is being stubborn and won't move.
 - b. The spots close to the entrance are reserved for white people.
 - c. She is too tired to go any further.
3. What does Mr. Barnett do when Cassie tugs his sleeve?
 - a. He decides he should finish T.J.'s order.
 - b. He gives her a piece of penny candy.
 - c. He recoils from her touch.
4. Who shoves Cassie off of the sidewalk?
 - a. Lillian Jean
 - b. Mr. Simms
 - c. T.J.
5. When Big Ma finds Cassie trying to run away from Mr. Simms, what does Big Ma make Cassie do?
 - a. go back into the store
 - b. carry the shopping bags
 - c. apologize to Lillian Jean
6. How does Stacey explain Big Ma's strange behavior to Cassie?
 - a. Big Ma had to do what she did.
 - b. Big Ma was already angry with Cassie, and she went along with Mr. Simms as punishment.
 - c. Big Ma was upset about her conversation with Mr. Jamison.
7. Whose car is in the barn?
 - a. Mr. Granger's
 - b. Uncle Hammer's
 - c. Mr. Simms's
8. What happens just as Uncle Hammer starts his Packard?
 - a. Someone shoots him.
 - b. Someone gets in the car with him.
 - c. Mama runs in front of the car and won't let Uncle Hammer drive away.
9. Why does Mama say that Mr. Simms thinks that Lillian Jean is better than Cassie?
 - a. because she is white
 - b. because she gets better grades in school
 - c. because she is older
10. What does Uncle Hammer do when he sees the Model-T truck about to cross the bridge?
 - a. He backs up and lets the truck go first.
 - b. He turns around and goes a different way.
 - c. He speeds up and forces the truck to back off the bridge.

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. How does Cassie feel when she sees Strawberry for the first time?
2. What item is T.J. especially interested in at the store in Strawberry?
3. When a woman warns Cassie to be quiet, what does Mr. Barnett do?
4. What emotion is in Big Ma's eyes when she encounters Mr. Simms?
5. Why doesn't Big Ma want Cassie to tell her story about what happened in Strawberry?
6. How does Mama explain why Mr. Simms has to believe that white people are better than black people?
7. How does Mama explain why white people taught slaves Christianity?
8. Although there are some things they can't control, what does Mama say people can control?
9. Why does Stacey say that Cassie should be glad that nothing happened between Uncle Hammer and Mr. Simms?
10. What does T.J. say Stacey looks like in his new jacket from Uncle Hammer?

Deepen Your Understanding

Important characters in stories are often dynamic. That is, they change and grow in response to what happens in the story.

In these chapters, the reader watches Cassie face some difficult realities. It becomes clear that Stacey has already experienced these challenges, and he is beginning to take on more adult responsibility, including explaining to Cassie why people sometimes have to do what they do not want to do. Give one or two examples of Stacey's growing maturity. Compare his behavior with how Cassie might have acted in the same situation.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

admonished—cautioned against; warned

bewildered—hopelessly confused

interminable—without end

avenging—getting back at someone for an injury or a wrong

goaded—prodded into action

revenue—income; an item or a source of income

denote—to be a sign of; to indicate

impaled—pierced through with, or fixed on, with something pointed

sentinels—people or animals sent to guard a group

fallow—left unplanted, unused

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **shantytown** is an area where a group of poor and/or homeless people have congregated.

Shreveport is a city in northwest Louisiana.

Martinique is an island in the West Indies.

Collateral is anything that is given to secure or guarantee an obligation.

A **mulatto** is a person who has one black parent and one white parent.

A **title** is the evidence of ownership of real estate.

A **boycott** is the act of refusing to buy, sell, or use something.

Bootlegging means making, selling, or carrying liquor illegally.

Yankee carpetbaggers were Northerners who went to the South after the Civil War to take advantage of the unsettled conditions there.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What is revealed about T.J. when Stacey explains how T.J. got Stacey's new jacket?
2. What effect does Mr. Morrison's story of his parents have on Cassie?
3. What does Jeremy's Christmas act of giving Stacey the flute show about Jeremy?
4. How does Cassie display creativity and trickiness in her way of getting back at Lillian Jean?
5. What are the reasons Mr. Granger would want Mama to be fired?

IV. CHAPTERS 7–8

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “In quiet anger she glared at Stacey and **admonished**, ‘In this house we do not give away what loved ones give to us.’”
admonished: _____
2. “Mama turned **bewildered** toward Uncle Hammer. ‘Hammer, what’re you saying?’”
bewildered: _____
3. “The last days of school before Christmas seemed **interminable**.”
interminable: _____
4. “‘But my mama and daddy they loved each other and they loved us children, and that Christmas they fought them demons out of hell like **avenging** angels of the Lord.’”
avenging: _____
5. “I watched Stacey closely to see if he was going to allow himself to be **goaded** by T.J.; he was not.”
goaded: _____
6. “‘Don’t forget that Harlan leases that store land to the Wallaces and gets a hefty percentage of its **revenue**.’”
revenue: _____
7. “‘That they should be punished just as if they had killed a white man, and punishment of a white man for a wrong done to a black man would **denote** equality.’”
denote: _____
8. “Papa **impaled** Mr. Granger with an icy stare.”
impaled: _____
9. “Papa rubbed his moustache and looked up at the trees standing like **sentinels** on the edge of the hollow, listening.”
sentinels: _____
10. “T.J. stepped backward and looked nervously over his shoulder to the south, where the fields lay **fallow**.”
fallow: _____

IV. CHAPTERS 7–8

DURING READING

*Check Your Understanding**Multiple Choice*

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What has Stacey done with his new coat?
 - a. lost it
 - b. given it to T.J.
 - c. given it to Christopher-John
2. On what day were Mr. Morrison's parents killed?
 - a. Halloween
 - b. Easter
 - c. Christmas
3. What is Little Man most excited to receive on Christmas?
 - a. clothes
 - b. an orange
 - c. books
4. What unexpected visitor comes by to see Stacey on Christmas Day?
 - a. Mr. Jamison
 - b. Claude
 - c. Jeremy Simms
5. Big Ma takes the "legal right to the land" and puts in it two other people's names. Who are those two people?
 - a. Stacey and Cassie
 - b. Mama and Papa
 - c. Papa and Uncle Hammer
6. What does Mr. Jamison say he will do at the store in Vicksburg?
 - a. back the credit of black people who live near the Logans
 - b. start a fight with Mr. Simms
 - c. buy things for the black people who live near the Logans
7. What does Papa tell Cassie might happen if she makes the wrong decision and Mr. Simms gets involved with her feud with Lillian Jean?
 - a. He tells her that he'll get involved, and there will be trouble.
 - b. He tells her that he'll hurt Mr. Simms.
 - c. He tells her that Uncle Hammer will hurt Mr. Simms.
8. What does Cassie do for Lillian Jean every day in January?
 - a. cleans her shoes
 - b. carries her books
 - c. braids her hair
9. What power does Cassie have over Lillian Jean so that she won't tell on her?
 - a. Cassie is a better student.
 - b. Cassie threatens to beat her up again.
 - c. Cassie knows all of Lillian Jean's secrets.
10. On the day that Mr. Granger visits the school, what is Mama's lesson about?
 - a. the Civil War
 - b. the Puritans
 - c. slavery

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why does Uncle Hammer say that Stacey should not go get his coat back from T.J.?
2. Why does Papa think that the children should be able to listen to Mr. Morrison's story on Christmas Eve?
3. What does Papa say is the reason that the Logans don't have much to do with white people?
4. What does Mr. Jamison say that Harlan Granger definitely will not permit?
5. For what reason does Mr. Granger come to see the Logans at the end of Chapter 7?
6. According to Papa, how does a person earn respect?
7. How does Cassie lure Lillian Jean into the woods?
8. How does Cassie guarantee that no one will see Lillian Jean's injuries after their fight?
9. What reason does Mama give for not teaching history from the book?
10. Why do the Logan children stop being friends with T.J.?

Deepen Your Understanding

In these chapters, several characters have experiences that lead them to defend their values. Find at least two such instances. Explain how and why the characters defend their values. How does race play a role in each character's effort?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

furrowed—grooved by a plow; anything resembling grooved land (such as a wrinkled forehead)

kin—relatives; family

resigned—yielding and uncomplaining; feeling or showing passive acceptance

amenities—pleasant manners of polite social behavior

seep—to leak, drip, or flow out slowly through small openings or pores

rile—to anger or irritate

despondently—hopelessly

condemning—strongly disapproving of

reproachfully—accusingly; making one feel ashamed

en masse—in a group

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

A **chain gang** is a gang of prisoners chained together while doing hard labor.

A **ledger** is a book for recording all debits (withdrawals or charges) and credits (deposits or gains) for a financial account.

Insecticide is any substance used to kill insects.

A **revival** is a public meeting at which religious excitement is stirred up by inspiring preaching and singing.

A **compound** is an enclosed space with a building or group of buildings in it.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What does Jeremy imply about how T.J. is treated by R.W. and Melvin?
2. Why do Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier decide that they need to go back to the Wallace store?
3. What happens to Mr. Logan, Mr. Morrison, and Stacey on their way back from Vicksburg?
Who is responsible for these actions?
4. Why is Kaleb Wallace angry with Mr. Morrison? Why is Kaleb Wallace scared of Mr. Morrison?
5. Why does Uncle Hammer sell his car and return to the South?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “I was eager to be in the fields again, to feel the **furrowed** rows of damp, soft earth beneath my feet; eager to walk barefooted through the cool forest, hug the trees, and sit under their protective shadow.”
furrowed: _____
2. ““But they’re his **kin**. A fellow’s gotta like his own kin.””
kin: _____
3. “Stacey looked out into the falling night, his face **resigned**, and said nothing.”
resigned: _____
4. ““You goin’ up to the store tomorrow, David?” Mr. Avery asked after all the **amenities** had been said.”
amenities: _____
5. “Papa allowed the silence to **seep** between them before he said, ‘It’s not like you, honey, to be bitter.’”
seep: _____
6. “Mama said that the number was not significant enough to hurt the Wallaces, only enough to **rile** them, and she worried, afraid for Papa, Stacey, and Mr. Morrison to make the trip.”
rile: _____
7. “Stacey sat across from Papa looking **despondently** at the broken leg.”
despondently: _____
8. “The truck door swung open and Kaleb Wallace stepped out, pointing a long **condemning** finger at Mr. Morrison.”
condemning: _____
9. “Stacey glanced **reproachfully** at me, then lay flat upon the ground, his head resting in the cushion of his hands clasped under his head.”
reproachfully: _____
10. ““Hey, what’s the matter with y’all?” T.J. yelled as the group turned **en masse** and headed for the church.”
en masse: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why does Mama tell Cassie to put one tablespoon of flour back in the barrel?
 - a. Cassie is talking too much and not paying attention to what she is doing.
 - b. The barrel of flour is running low and needs to last until Papa is back at work.
 - c. Mama likes her cornbread with less flour in it.
2. How much cotton will Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier have to give to Mr. Granger this year?
 - a. ten percent
 - b. fifty percent
 - c. sixty percent
3. What have Mr. Granger and the Wallaces threatened Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier with?
 - a. hanging
 - b. disrespect
 - c. the chain gang
4. Who does Papa decide to take to Vicksburg with him?
 - a. Uncle Hammer
 - b. Cassie
 - c. Stacey
5. What two injuries does Papa suffer?
 - a. He breaks his arm and his leg.
 - b. He breaks his leg and is shot in the head.
 - c. He breaks his leg and is shot in the chest.
6. Why does Stacey think that Papa's broken leg is his fault?
 - a. He doesn't hear the truck coming up behind them.
 - b. He runs off instead of holding Jack.
 - c. He has trouble holding Jack when Jack gets spooked.
7. Why is Mama afraid for Mr. Morrison?
 - a. He can't find work.
 - b. He isn't getting along with Mr. Avery.
 - c. He is the one who hurt two of the Wallaces while saving Papa.
8. How does Mr. Morrison get Kaleb Wallace's truck out of his way?
 - a. He moves it using his own strength.
 - b. He makes Kaleb move it by threatening him.
 - c. He runs Uncle Hammer's car into it.
9. Where does Jeremy Simms sleep at night?
 - a. in his bedroom in his house
 - b. in a bedroom he built in a tree
 - c. outside in a tent
10. Who arrives during the revival?
 - a. Mr. Granger
 - b. Mr. Jamison
 - c. Uncle Hammer

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What does Jeremy say R.W. and Melvin do behind T.J.'s back?
2. Why does Cassie think that Papa hasn't returned to work on the railroad yet?
3. Why does Papa get mad at Stacey after Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier leave?
4. What happens to the wagon on the way back from Vicksburg?
5. Who attacks Papa, Mr. Morrison, and Stacey on the way back from Vicksburg?
6. Why does Mr. Morrison tell Cassie to get in the back of the wagon on the way back from the Wiggins farm?
7. Why does Mr. Morrison want to remain with the Logan family despite the threat from the Wallaces?
8. Why is Papa so angry about the letter that Mr. Morrison brings from Strawberry?
9. Why has Uncle Hammer sold his car?
10. Why does Cassie feel sorry for T.J. at the end of Chapter 10?

Deepen Your Understanding

In Chapter 9, Papa tells Cassie, “You see that fig tree over yonder, Cassie? Them other trees all around . . . that oak and walnut, they’re a lot bigger and they take up more room and give so much shade they almost overshadow that little ole fig. But that fig tree’s got roots that run deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut. It keeps on blooming, bearing good fruit year after year, knowing all the time it’ll never get as big as them other trees. Just keeps growing and doing what it gotta do. It don’t give up. It give up, it’ll die. There’s a lesson to be learned from that little tree, Cassie girl, ’cause we’re like it. We keep doing what we gotta, and we don’t give up. We can’t.”

Explain how the Logan family is like this fig tree.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

grimaced—twisting or distorting of the face, as in expressing pain or disgust

frenzied—characterized by a wild outburst of feeling or action

savage—fierce; wild; primitive

vulnerability—the condition of being easily injured or hurt

akimbo—with hands on hips and elbows bent outward

prone—lying flat in a horizontal position

affirmation—something said positively; something declared firmly

menacingly—threateningly

transfixed—made motionless as if spellbound

acrid—sharp, bitter, stinging, or irritating to the taste or smell

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Burlap is a coarse cloth used for making sacks.

Bolls are the roundish seed pods of a plant such as cotton.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do you think that R.W. and Melvin go into the Barnetts' store and house with their faces masked and gloves on while T.J. does not?
2. Why does Kaleb Wallace want to "take care" of Mr. Morrison, too?
3. Why is Mama so insistent about Papa not using his gun?
4. What does Papa do that stops the men from killing T.J. and coming after Mr. Morrison?
5. Why can't Papa (or anyone else) tell the sheriff that T.J. was not responsible for what happened to the Barnetts but that R.W. and Melvin were?

VI. CHAPTERS 11–12

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “I **grimaced** and shook my head at the sight. ‘Lord, T.J.!’ Stacey exclaimed in a whisper. ‘What happened?’”
grimaced: _____
2. “But when Mr. Barnett saw the cabinet lock busted, he flew into **frenzied** action, hopping madly down the stairs and trying to grab the metal box from Melvin.”
frenzied: _____
3. “. . . the two of them lit into him, beating him with **savage** blows until he could not stand, then flung him into the back of the truck and went down the street to the pool hall.”
savage: _____
4. “Perhaps he felt that even a person as despicable as T.J. needed someone he could call ‘friend,’ or perhaps he sensed T.J.’s **vulnerability** better than T.J. did himself.”
vulnerability: _____
5. “Kaleb Wallace and his brother Thurston, his left arm hanging **akimbo** at this side, pounded the front door with their rifle butts.”
akimbo: _____
6. “. . . he pulled his leg back and kicked T.J.’s swollen stomach with such force that T.J. emitted a cry of awful pain and fell **prone** upon the ground.”
prone: _____
7. “A welling **affirmation** rose from the men.”
affirmation: _____
8. “Afterward both Mama and Big Ma changed their clothes, then we sat, very quiet, as the heat crept sticky and wet through our clothing and the thunder banged **menacingly** overhead.”
menacingly: _____
9. “There we gazed **transfixed** as the flames gobbled up the cotton and crept dangerously near the forest edge.”
transfixed: _____
10. “I stood up stiffly, my eyes tearing from the **acrid** smoke, and looked out across the cotton to the slope, barely visible in the smoggish dawn.”
acrid: _____

VI. CHAPTERS 11–12

DURING READING

*Check Your Understanding**Multiple Choice*

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Who is on the porch when Cassie investigates the tapping sound she hears?
 - a. Mr. Morrison
 - b. T.J.
 - c. Stacey
2. Who slips in the window of the Barnetts' house?
 - a. R.W.
 - b. Melvin
 - c. T.J.
3. What does R.W. hit Mr. Barnett over the head with?
 - a. the flat side of an axe
 - b. the pistol
 - c. a shovel
4. What convinces Cassie that T.J. is not lying?
 - a. He swears that he isn't.
 - b. T.J. coughs up blood.
 - c. Stacey tells her to believe him.
5. Who does Mrs. Barnett think robbed her store?
 - a. R.W. and Melvin
 - b. T.J.
 - c. three black boys
6. Who arrives at the Avery house in an attempt to stop the white men from hanging T.J.?
 - a. Mr. Logan
 - b. Mr. Jamison
 - c. Mr. Morrison
7. What is Christopher-John most upset about when he, Cassie, and Little Man arrive at home in the middle of the night?
 - a. that it was dark outside
 - b. that the white men hurt Claude
 - c. that Stacey is still outside
8. Who arrives toward morning and tells Cassie, Christopher-John, and Little Man about who has been fighting the fire?
 - a. Lillian Jean Simms
 - b. Jeremy Simms
 - c. Mama
9. According to Stacey's story, what is it that actually saves T.J. from being hanged?
 - a. the announcement that Mr. Granger's fields are on fire
 - b. Mr. Jamison's interruptions
 - c. the fact that the sheriff steps in and stops the men
10. How does the fire really start?
 - a. A lightning strike causes it.
 - b. Papa starts it intentionally.
 - c. The Wallaces set it.

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What does T.J. ask Stacey to do when he arrives, injured, at the Logan house?
2. Why do R.W. and Melvin beat T.J.?
3. Why does Stacey decide to help T.J., according to Cassie?
4. When the white men arrive at the Avery house, what do they find that gets T.J. in trouble?
5. When Kaleb Wallace announces that he has three new ropes, who do he and Thurston imply that they should use them for?
6. Why does Papa say that Harlan Granger won't stop T.J. from being hanged?
7. After Papa and Mr. Morrison leave, what does Big Ma do?
8. What two men together lead the other men in digging a trench across the slope?
9. What puzzles Cassie about Stacey's story?
10. What does Papa say that he would like to be able to lie to Cassie and Stacey about?

Deepen Your Understanding

The poem at the beginning of Chapter 11 is where the title of the novel comes from. Reread the poem. Why did Mildred Taylor include this poem here? Why did she choose *Roll of Thunder* for the title of her book? What does that phrase—and the poem—mean to you?

End-of-Book Test

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What do the Logan children learn has happened to the Berrys?
 - a. They have run out of money.
 - b. They have had a huge argument with Harlan Granger.
 - c. They have been burned by white men.
2. Who comes to live with the Logans while Papa is away working on the railroad?
 - a. Uncle Hammer
 - b. Mr. Morrison
 - c. Mr. Jamison
3. Where does Papa Logan forbid his children to go?
 - a. to Jeremy's house
 - b. to Strawberry
 - c. to the Wallace store
4. How do the Logan children get revenge on the bus driver and the white children?
 - a. They call them names and throw mud at them.
 - b. They damage the axle of the bus.
 - c. They dig a trench in the road, and the bus gets stuck in it.
5. What happens at the Logan house the night after the bus incident?
 - a. Papa returns home because he suspects trouble.
 - b. Mr. Morrison gets into a fight.
 - c. The night men drive up to the Logan house and stare at it.
6. Why does Mama whip Stacey at school?
 - a. He is caught with T.J.'s cheat notes.
 - b. He talks back to a teacher.
 - c. He gets into a fight with T.J.
7. How does Mr. Morrison explain why Mama doesn't want the children at the Wallace store?
 - a. He says that she knows that the Wallaces aren't good people.
 - b. He says that Mama knows that that's where the children go to fight.
 - c. He says that Mama thinks the prices at the store are too high.
8. Who originally owned the land that the Logan family now owns?
 - a. Mr. Jamison
 - b. Harlan Granger
 - c. Mr. Hollenbeck
9. Why does Mama bring her children to see Mr. and Mrs. Berry?
 - a. She wants to bring the Berrys gifts.
 - b. She is nervous about leaving them at home because the night men might come.
 - c. She wants them to see why she doesn't want them to go to the Wallace store.
10. Why does Mr. Barnett throw Cassie out of his store?
 - a. She tries to steal some candy.
 - b. She is with T.J., who is being rude.
 - c. She gets mad at him for waiting on other people before finishing T.J.'s order.

(continued)

End-of-Book Test (continued)

11. What is Cassie forced to do after she bumps into Lillian Jean?
 - a. apologize to her
 - b. go back to the wagon immediately to wait for the others
 - c. carry her books to school for a month
12. How is Stacey persuaded to give his new jacket to T.J.?
 - a. The other boys are laughing at him and calling him preacher.
 - b. He doesn't like the jacket very much.
 - c. T.J. threatens him
13. What story does Mr. Morrison tell on Christmas Eve?
 - a. the story of Santa Claus
 - b. the story of his parents' deaths
 - c. the story of the Logan ancestors
14. Who gives Stacey a flute for Christmas?
 - a. Papa
 - b. Mr. Morrison
 - c. Jeremy Simms
15. Who offers to back the credit of the black people in Vicksburg?
 - a. Harlan Granger
 - b. Mr. Jamison
 - c. Mr. Avery
16. How does Cassie get back at Lillian Jean?
 - a. She befriends her, learns her secrets, and then turns on her.
 - b. She spreads rumors about her.
 - c. She tears pages from her books.
17. Who begins the story that gets Mama fired?
 - a. Kaleb Wallace
 - b. Mr. Granger
 - c. T.J.
18. Why can't Papa go back to work on the railroad?
 - a. because of the injuries he suffers on the way back from Vicksburg
 - b. because he is afraid to leave Mama and the children
 - c. because the wagon gets broken on the way home from Vicksburg
19. What does Cassie call "one of those known and unknown things, something never to be spoken"?
 - a. the fact that the Wallaces helped to fight the fire
 - b. the fact that T.J. wasn't responsible for what happened to the Barnetts
 - c. the fact that Papa started the fire
20. What is the most probable end result for T.J.?
 - a. that he will die
 - b. that he will end up on the chain gang
 - c. that he will recover and eventually go home

Answer Key

I. CHAPTERS 1–2

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. a | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. c | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. Papa goes to work on the railroad so that the family will have enough money to pay the mortgage and taxes on the land they own and still live on it, too.
2. T.J. tells them that the Berrys have been burned because "white men took a match to them."
3. The bus is for white children and is going to the Jefferson Davis County School, not the Great Faith School.
4. Miss Crocker is teaching both the first-graders and the fourth-graders for the first few days of school because the first-grade teacher, Miss Davis, had been held up in Jackson for a few days.
5. The books are old, dirty, worn, and marred by pencils, crayons, and ink. Each book also has a chart stamped on the inside cover that shows that the books have only been given to the black students because they're too old and worn to be used by the white students anymore.
6. Miss Crocker says that Little Man can't read. Cassie disagrees and says that Little Man has been reading since he was four.
7. Miss Crocker whips Little Man and Cassie with a switch.
8. Cassie doesn't talk to Mama after Miss Crocker leaves Mama's room because she can see that

it's a bad time to make her presence known and because she knows that Mama understands why Cassie and Little Man are angry about the books.

9. Mr. Morrison gets fired from the railroad because he got into a fight with some white men.
10. The sheriff tells Henrietta that she is a liar and sends her home.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

II. CHAPTERS 3–4

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. b |
| 2. a | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. a | 9. c |
| 5. b | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He tells the Logan children that he likes them.
2. They are watching, hidden from view behind the bushes.
3. They are thinking about what happened to the Jefferson Davis bus, and it makes them laugh.
4. She gets a rifle from beneath the bed.
5. There are seven cars that are part of the caravan.
6. T.J. passes his cheat notes to Stacey when he sees Mrs. Logan coming toward him.
7. Mr. Morrison tells Stacey that he owes it to Mama to tell her himself. Mr. Morrison also says that it's Stacey's decision; Stacey does decide that he'll tell Mama.

8. Mr. Hollenbeck bought the land from the Grangers during Reconstruction. The Grangers had no money and had to sell the land so that they could pay their taxes and rebuild the land they had left.
9. Paul Edward Logan bought the other two hundred acres of land from Wade Jamison.
10. Mr. Turner explains that it is only possible for him to shop at a store that he has credit at. He has credit at the Wallace store because Mr. Montier signs for him and provides credit there.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary; however, it is when Mr. Avery comes to warn the Logan family that the night men are riding that the mood changes abruptly to one of fear and nervousness. Prior to that, the entire Logan family has been pleased about what happened to the Jefferson Davis bus. The fearful mood is how Chapter 4 begins.

III. CHAPTERS 5–6

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. a |
| 2. b | 7. b |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. b | 9. a |
| 5. c | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. Cassie is disappointed. She expected Strawberry to be a "tough, sprawling bigness."
2. T.J. is particularly interested in a pearl-handled gun.
3. Mr. Barnett asks the woman if Cassie is hers.
4. The emotion in Big Ma's eyes is fear.
5. Big Ma doesn't want Cassie to tell her story because she knows that it will make Uncle Hammer angry. She is worried about what Hammer will try to do to get revenge.

6. Mama explains that Mr. Simms (and some other white people) need to believe that they are better than black people because it makes them feel important. Mama says that someone like Mr. Simms holds onto this idea because he has little else to hold onto.
7. Mama says that Christianity was taught to slaves to teach them obedience.
8. Mama says that people can control what they make of their lives.
9. Stacey says that he heard Big Ma tell Mama that if Uncle Hammer had gotten revenge against Mr. Simms, that Uncle Hammer "might get killed."
10. T.J. says that Stacey looks like a fat preacher in his new jacket.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary. Stacey shows on several occasions that he has already learned difficult lessons. For example, he understands why Mr. Barnett waits on the white people before T.J., why Big Ma makes Cassie apologize to Lillian Jean, and why Uncle Hammer can't safely get revenge against Mr. Simms.

IV. CHAPTERS 7–8

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. a |
| 3. c | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. c |
| 5. c | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. Uncle Hammer says that if Stacey isn't smart enough to hold onto a good coat, then he doesn't deserve to have it.
2. Papa says that the children need to hear this story because it's their history, too.

3. Papa says that the Logan family doesn't have much to do with white people because "white folks mean trouble."
4. Mr. Jamison says that Mr. Granger will not permit any action that indicates that white and black people are equal.
5. Mr. Granger visits the Logans to warn them that if they continue with the boycott of the Wallace store, he plans on finding a way to make them lose the land.
6. Papa says that a person gains respect by how he or she carries himself or herself and by what he or she stands for.
7. Cassie tells Lillian Jean that there is a surprise for her in the woods.
8. Cassie is careful when she is fighting; she only hits Lillian Jean in the stomach and buttocks and never touches her face.
9. Mama says that she does not teach only from the book because not everything in the book is true.
10. The Logan children end their friendship with T.J. because they learn that it was T.J. who told Kaleb Wallace that Mama was not a good teacher and that she was the person who stopped people from going to the Wallaces' store.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

V. CHAPTERS 9–10

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. c |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. c | 8. a |
| 4. c | 9. b |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. Jeremy says that R.W. and Melvin laughed and talked about T.J. and that they called him names after he left.
2. Cassie realizes that Papa seems to be waiting for something; she's not sure what it is, though.
3. Papa gets angry at Stacey because he is talking about more than he knows. He tells Stacey that he has no idea of the risk that Mr. Avery and Mr. Lanier have been taking by shopping in Vicksburg.
4. Both back wheels fall off the wagon on the way back from Vicksburg. It is this that makes Papa believe that someone is coming after them.
5. It is the Wallaces who attack Papa, Mr. Morrison, and Stacey on their way back from Vicksburg.
6. Mr. Morrison tells Cassie to get in the back of the wagon because he sees Kaleb Wallace approaching in his truck.
7. Mr. Morrison wants to stay with the Logan family because they have become like a family to him. He says that if he had had children and grandchildren, he would have liked them to be like Mama and Papa and their children.
8. Papa is angry about the letter because it says that the mortgage must be paid immediately.
9. Uncle Hammer has sold his car because they need the money to pay for the land.
10. Cassie feels bad for T.J. at the end of Chapter 10 because she has "never seen him look more desolately alone." He wants to believe that the white boys are his friends, but they just use him.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers should focus on the fact that the Logans, like the fig tree, have deep roots, will never give up, and struggle against others who try to overshadow them.

VI. CHAPTERS 11–12

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of Focus Your Reading, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. b |
| 2. c | 7. b |
| 3. a | 8. b |
| 4. b | 9. a |
| 5. c | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. T.J. asks Stacey to help him get home.
2. R.W. and Melvin beat T.J. because he says that he'll tell everyone who really hurt the Barnetts if they won't bring him home.
3. Cassie surmises that Stacey helps T.J. for one of three reasons: he feels a responsibility toward him; he feels that everyone (even someone as despicable as T.J.) needs someone to call a friend; or he understands T.J.'s vulnerability better than T.J. does himself.
4. The white men find the pearl-handled pistol from the Barnett's store at the Avery house.
5. Kaleb and Thurston Wallace imply that they should use the three ropes for T.J., Papa Logan, and Mr. Morrison.
6. Papa says that Harlan Granger won't stop the hanging because all of the cars had to pass his house on the way to the Averys' and that Mr. Granger could have stopped them then if he had wanted to.

7. Big Ma prays after Papa Logan and Mr. Morrison leave.
8. It is Mr. Logan and Mr. Granger that together lead the other men in digging a trench across the slope.
9. Cassie is puzzled about where Papa is when Mr. Morrison goes and gets Stacey by himself.
10. Papa says that he would like to be able to lie to Stacey and Cassie about what is likely to happen to T.J.; he knows that T.J. will probably end up dead.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary. Students may comment on the need to not be beaten down. This relates to the attitude that the members of the Logan family display throughout the book.

END-OF-BOOK TEST

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 11. a |
| 2. b | 12. a |
| 3. c | 13. b |
| 4. c | 14. c |
| 5. c | 15. b |
| 6. a | 16. a |
| 7. a | 17. c |
| 8. b | 18. a |
| 9. c | 19. c |
| 10. c | 20. a |